

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

OF THE

Directors of the Town's Hospital,

APPOINTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE

MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCIL

ON THE SUBJECT OF

ASSESSING AND COLLECTING THE POOR'S-RATE.

GLASGOW :

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MDCCCXXXIV.

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EXTRACT

From the Minutes of the TOWN'S HOSPITAL, of date, 19th November, 1833.

MR THOMSON moved the following Resolution :—" That in order to carry into effect the recommendation of the Committee, approved of by last *pro re nata* Meeting, as to the propriety of adopting immediate means to have the Assessing and Collecting of the Poor's-Rate placed under the control of the Directors of this Establishment, a Committee be appointed to ascertain how far the Magistrates and Town Council may be inclined to give effect to that recommendation, and if so, to co-operate with them in accomplishing that object." Seconded by MR STEWART, and unanimously carried.

The following-named Gentlemen, were appointed a Committee, viz.—

MESSRS WILLIAM THOMSON,
ROBERT STEWART,
JAMES BROWNE,
ROBERT FINDLAY,
JAMES CLARK,
ROBERT MACHAFFIE.

MR THOMSON, *Convener*.

Three to be a quorum.

TOWN'S HOSPITAL, 19th August, 1834.

MR THOMSON presented the following REPORT:—

Within the Town's Hospital, on Tuesday, 12th August, 1834, convened the Committee appointed to communicate with the Magistrates and Town Council, on the subject of Assessing and Collecting the Poor-Rates.—Present: Messrs Browne, Stewart, Findlay, and Thomson,—Mr Thomson, Convener of the Committee, in the Chair.

After duly considering the answer received from the Magistrates and Council, the Committee unanimously agreed to Report

To the Directors of the Town's Hospital,

That in obedience to your Resolution of 20th May, your Committee did, on the 27th of that month, duly transmit authenticated Extracts from your Minutes of 19th November, 1833, and 20th May, 1834, to Mr Reddie, to be by him submitted to the *first* Meeting of Council.

That on the 29th June, the Convener of Committee was put in possession of Extracts from the Minutes of Council,

dated 12th and 28th June, which Extraets the Committee now respectfully submit to your consideration.

“ At Glasgow, the twelfth day of June, 1834.

“ The Magistrates and Council of the City of Glasgow, being in Council assembled,

“ The Magistrates presented the following Report, relative to the recent communications from the Directors of the Town’s Hospital:—‘ The Magistrates, under the Remit made to them by the Council, have had under their consideration the Extraets, transmitted by Mr Thomson, of the Minutes of the Directors of the Town’s Hospital, dated the 21st August, 1832, 19th November, 1833, and 20th May, 1834. And, with regard to the sums paid under the Assessment imposed by the Magistrates and Council, to meet, eventually, the claim made by the Heritors of the Barony Parish, and which were lent to the Hospital in order to save the difference of interest payable upon these sums, if they had been left deposited in Bank, and the interest of four per cent. paid by the Hospital to the Bank, for the necessary temporary advances annually required by the Directors, to answer the current expenditure during the Collection of the Assessment,—the Magistrates are of opinion, the Council, agreeably to their Resolution of the 17th April last, proceeding upon the application of the Assessors for the Poor, ought to comply with the suggestion of the Directors; and authorise them to apply the sums lent to the Hospital, as before noticed, agreeably to that Resolution. But, with regard to the proposal to place the general Assessment for the maintenance of the Poor, and the sums raised by that Assessment, and the appointment of a Collector, under the control of the Directors, the Magistrates, alive, as they are, to the attention and assiduity of the Directors, in the judicious administration of the Funds of the Hospital, would submit to the Directors themselves, whether, in the altered circumstances of the Municipal Government of the City, the Magistrates and Council do not now more fairly and legitimately represent the

Poor-Rate Payers, than the constituent Members of the Hospital Directory,—one-half of whom are persons not elected by the citizens. It is likewise known to the Directors, that the Magistrates and Council exercise, both in the imposition of the Assessment, and in the expenditure of the Funds, more a *supervising* than an *acting* control. And as the Council is now constituted, the Magistrates are of opinion, that such a controlling influence, on the part of the Representatives of the citizens, is desirable and necessary. It may admit of doubt, also, how far the Magistrates and Council could, legally, surrender the powers now vested in them, or rather in the Magistrates, by Statute, and at Common Law, with regard to raising the necessary Funds for the maintenance of the Poor ; and even were the proposition otherwise expedient and admissible, the Magistrates think that an Act of Parliament would be requisite to sanction such a surrender.—Signed, Robert Graham, Thomas Muir, John Fleming, James Lumsden, William Mills, William Gilmour.—Glasgow, 11th June, 1834.' Of which Report, delay the consideration till next Meeting.

“ Extracted from the Records of Council,

“ A. TURNER.”

“ *At Glasgow, the twenty-sixth day of June, 1834.*

“ *The Magistrates and Council of the City of Glasgow, being in Council assembled,*

“ And having resumed consideration of the Report on the communications from the Directors of the Town's Hospital, presented on the 29th May last, unanimously approve of the said Report ; Resolve, accordingly ; and direct an Extract of the Minutes of Council, relative to this matter, to be transmitted to the Preeceptor of the Hospital.

“ Extracted from the Records of Council,

“ A. TURNER.”

As the appointment of your Committee proceeded from unanimous Resolutions of the Directors of 1833, as well as of the Directors of the present year, it is not necessary for your Committee to vindicate the expediency of the change desired. But they may be allowed to say, that no sufficient reason for the refusal of the Council can be discovered in the municipal changes that have occurred. It was as well known on the 19th September last, as it is now, that the new Town Council would be chosen by the votes of the Inhabitants. It is true, the individuals to be chosen were not known; but the arguments urged in Mr Muir's Report on the 24th October, demonstrating the necessity of the change, seem as efficient now as they were at that time, and your Committee cannot admit that any Town Council of 32, chosen by a *mere majority* of Ten Pound householders, can "more fairly and legitimately represent the Poor-Rate Payers," than do the 51 Directors of the Town's Hospital, chosen by the two great charitable Corporations, as well as by that Town Council, and by the General Session. The mixed character of the Hospital Directors is assuredly a more perfect representation of *all classes*, than the representatives of a majority of any *one class* of the community.

On the other point urged, your Committee had no doubt that *the change could not be effected without an Act of Parliament*. The necessity of such Act was *one of the reasons* for appointing your Committee to co-operate with the Magistrates and Council.

In the Extracts transmitted to your Committee, an answer is given to the communication ordered to be made by the

Superintendent, which, although not within the scope of their instructions, they may be permitted to say, is satisfactory.

Finally, your Committee would now respectfully resign into your hands the duties of their appointment, as no object can be attained by their continuing a Committee.

By order of the Committee,

WILLIAM THOMSON, CONVENER.

GLASGOW, 12th August, 1834.

Which Report having been read, it was moved by DAVID FERGUSON, ESQ., "That the Report be forthwith printed and circulated among the Directors, and that a *pro re nata* Meeting be convened on this day four weeks, to take the said Report into consideration." The motion having been seconded by DAVID HOPE, ESQ., was carried without a vote.

John Smith Esq.